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## **SCHAKOWSKY INTRODUCES VAWA IMMIGRANT VICTIMS ACT OF 2007**

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today introduced the VAWA Immigrant Victims Act of 2007.

“This bill would strengthen VAWA by eliminating the fears and obstacles that prevent battered immigrant women from seeking help and protection.”

Under the current law, many VAWA eligible victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse or neglect are unable to obtain the protections and benefits provided by VAWA.

The VAWA Immigrant Victims Act of 2007 would:

- Stop the deportation of eligible immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking.
- Protect immigrant children who are victims of child abuse and child victim witnesses.
- Improve consistency and procedures for attaining VAWA immigration protections.
- Provide immediate access to health and other public benefits, including Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The improvements in this bill would help further VAWA's goal of providing protections and benefits for battered immigrant women and their children.